

April 2005  
NORTHERN COMMAND

# SAFESTAT REPORT

*Nevada Highway Patrol*  
Major Richard Varner

## Overview

The Northern Command experienced a 23.4% increase in total crashes in April as compared to the same period last year; however, there was a 6.4% decrease in crashes as compared to last month. The slight decrease in April is attributed to the continued improvement in the weather and the enhanced enforcement activity being conducted in the "Spaghetti Bowl" and the North McCarran/Clear Acre interchange in Reno.

There were a total of 337 crashes in April as compared to 360 last month. Property crashes decreased by 6.7% from 239 to 223, injury crashes decreased by 9.2% from 120 to 109, fatal crashes increased 300% from 1 to 4, and DUI crashes increased 31.3% from 16 to 21 as compared to the previous month.

There were a total of 13 commercial vehicle crashes this month as compared to 12 the previous month. Ten of the crashes were property damage and three were injury crashes. There were no fatal commercial vehicle crashes this month.

Total field enforcement activities increased 25.4% in April as compared to the same period last year and increased 9.3% over last month.

DUI arrests from crashes increased 31.3% and DUI arrests prior to crashes decreased by 6.1% when compared to last month. All other enforcement activities remained fairly consistent. Increased emphasis will be placed on apprehending the DUI driver prior to a crash in an effort to reduce the number of DUI related crashes.

The overall activity of the Northern Command's Commercial Enforcement section was down dramatically from last month. Most of the commercial enforcement activities showed decreases of between 30% and 75%. The decrease in activity can be partially attributed to the loss of approximately 1551 man-hours due to training and sick leave usage. Hazardous moving violations increased 34.6%, other traffic violations increased 19.2% and total overweight citations increased 7.2%. Steps are being taken to reverse the trend of decreased activity.

The communications centers radio transmissions decreased 9.9% from 100,092 in March to 90,152 in April. Total CAD incidents also decreased 9.8% from 10,775 to 9,722. The communications center's overtime decreased by 48.9% when compared to the same period last year and 6.3% as compared to last month.

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NORTHERN COMMAND

**CRASH ANALYSIS AND OVERVIEW**

	April 2005		April 2004	% Change		March 2005	% Change
Total Crashes	337		273	23.4		360	-6.4
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	223		177	26.0		239	-6.7
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	109		92	18.5		120	-9.2
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	4		4	0.0		1	300
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	21		3	600		16	31.3
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	4		5	-20.0		1	300
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	2		1	100		0	200
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	0		0	0		0	0
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	1		1	0		1	0
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	0		1	-100		0	0
Total persons killed - seatbelts not applicable	1		2	-50		0	100
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	13		10	30		12	8.3
Property crashes involving commercial vehicles	10		7	42.9		7	42.9
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	3		3	0		5	-40
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	0		0	0		0	0

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes 1.2%

Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes 4.8%

Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed 66.7%

Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes 3.6%

The month of April showed a decrease in overall vehicle crashes with the only exception being fatal crashes which rose from 1 occurrence to 4.

The Reno Urban area still suffers from crashes that are directly influenced by the construction zones in the areas of the "Spaghetti Bowl" and the North McCarran/Clear Acre interchange. The added effort in the area of the "Spaghetti Bowl" by the Reno Urban troopers has shown signs of good results. The overall crash rate in this area has fallen. The ongoing efforts will not be relaxed and additional special enforcement methods will be used to further reduce or at least maintain the lower rates.

Troopers will continue to work accident prevention enforcement targeting accident causing violations in our high accident areas. Weather did not appear to be a factor in an unusual number of accidents and as referenced may have contributed to the reduction in accidents this month. Accident causing violations remain following too close as a significant number of crashes are rear-end collisions.

The rural areas of the Northern Command also showed crash rate reductions.

## FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, versus same period in previous fiscal year, versus previous reporting period]

	April 2005	April 2004	% Change	March 2005	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes **	21	3	600	16	31.3
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes **	77	78	-1.3	82	-6.1
Other Arrests	375	342	9.6	393	-4.6
Total persons arrested (DUI included) **	193	169	14.2	191	1.0
Speed violations	2115	2194	-3.6	2151	-1.7
Hazardous moving violations	714	642	11.2	715	-0.1
Occupant restraint violations *	481	614	-21.7	453	6.2
Total violations [above violations included]	6040	4818	25.4	5527	9.3
<b>Commercial Enforcement</b>					
Hazardous moving violations - citations/arrests	35	11	218.2%	26	34.6%
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	31	29	6.9%	26	19.2%
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6]	363	563	-35.5%	694	-47.7%
Terminal inspections [level 5] CR only	0	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Total safety violations -- citation	205	262	-21.8%	307	-33.2%
Total safety violations -- repair order	1104	1302	-15.2%	2050	-46.1%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	76	112	-32.1%	133	-42.9%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	21	31	-32.3%	64	-67.2%
Total school buses inspected	92	109	-15.6%	255	-63.9%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	14	25	-44.0%	68	-79.4%
Total trucks weighed	164	956	-82.8%	413	-60.3%
Total overweight citations	74	47	57.4%	69	7.2%
Total dyed fuel inspections	202	434	-53.5%	808	-75.0%
Total dyed fuel citations	3	4	-25.0%	2	50.0%

\* Seat belt and child restraint

\*\* Commercial Enforcement Activity Included

Enforcement numbers overall showed a good increase of 9.3%. The continued efforts of the Northern Command officer despite their reduced manpower numbers shows that the level of individual effort is still remaining at a good level.

As manpower allows special enforcement activities are being enacted with the goal of reducing violations in given areas of the command. This is an ongoing effort to reduce the number and severity of crashes in the command.

## **COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT**

April is the first month of the third quarter of the current Federal Fiscal Year. This fiscal year continues through September 30, 2005. In April, the Commercial Section of the Northern Command continued to strive in order to meet all of the Federal Goals, established by the CVSP (Commercial Vehicle Safety Plan) for this fiscal year. At the close of the month of April the Northern Command Commercial Section is on pace to meet or exceed all of the goals as set forth by the CVSP for the federal fiscal year.

During the month of April, the Commercial Enforcement Section scheduled two (2) check-sites and was able to achieve both of the check-sites. Pre-Pass was used at one (1) of these check-sites.

Also, during the month of April, the Commercial Enforcement Section investigated a total of three (3) collisions and assisted with 22 other collisions. The section expended a total of 79.41 hours assisting the traffic section with traffic control and accident investigations. Three of these collisions involved commercial vehicles, in which the interstate was closed for a period of time.

Overall activity for the Commercial Enforcement Section was down from last month. This decrease is a culmination of time spent for training (classes and range), assisting with collisions and time taken off for surgeries and for other reasons. Total work hours lost was 1551 hours. This total was approximately 66% of the total hours worked. Most of the commercial enforcement categories were 30% to 47% in the negative.

As of April 12, 2005, the Commercial Enforcement Section was fully staffed. Two troopers transferred over to the section. One of these troopers is currently qualified as a commercial officer, while the other has no previous commercial experience. With the recent transfers, beginning next month, we will be able to report as a fully staffed section.

The training for our new personnel and for non-certified personnel continues. In April, we certified new personnel in General Hazardous Material and with this training obtained; they will attend a Cargo Tanker class in May 2005. Also in April, a Motor coach class was put on for some seasoned personnel. Approximately two years ago, the Commercial Enforcement Section stopped inspecting Motor coaches, therefore, every personnel was considered "non-certified."

## **AIR OPERATIONS**

Air 1 flew a total of 42.6 hours in April. 8 of 13 scheduled speed enforcement missions were flown. There were a total of five missions cancelled during the month of April; one mission was cancelled due to the Fernley sergeant calling a mandatory meeting and four were cancelled due to inclement weather. As a result of the other missions flown in April, 310 citations were issued and one drunk driver arrested. There were also two arrests made on outstanding warrant arrests. One in state prisoner transport was conducted.

An Airborne Traffic Observer class was held for 8 students on April 20 and 21. Four of the students were officers of the Merced County, California Sheriff's Department. They had asked that I train them in aircraft speed enforcement as the CHP was not willing to do so.

Work started this month on a complete rewrite of the aircraft program's policies and procedures. Heretofore, there was a separate set of SOP's for the Northern and Southern



commands; most of them quite outdated. A statewide set of flight operations policies are being developed to replace them.

## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	April 2005		April 2004	% Change		March 2005	% Change
COMMUNICATION CENTER							
Radio Transmissions	90152		97299	-7.3%		100092	-9.9%
CAD incidents	9722		10574	-8.1%		10775	-9.8%
EVIDENCE							
New Cases Submitted	40		22	-45		34	-15
New Items Submitted	70		48	-31.4		42	-40
Items Disposed	22		44	100		49	122.7

## COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

The Northern Command Communication center currently has two vacant Public Safety Dispatcher positions. An open competitive list was obtained from State Personnel and the recruitment and interviews were completed. There are currently 2 people in backgrounds with 2 more that were disqualified. The vacant shift supervisor position has been filled and the new PSD IV, Fred Littell and he started work April 18th. Total work hours lost decreased by 13.3% since last month primarily due to a drop in annual leave, sick leave and training. Compensatory overtime decreased by 9.1%. Overall overtime decreased by 48.9% when compared to the same period last year and 6.3% when compared to last month. This is primarily due to the increased use of flexible scheduling and day off trading. The coverage of sick leave accounted for 44% of overtime, followed by 12.7% for annual leave, 12.4% for the vacant positions and 11% for meetings.

## PUBLIC INFORMATION

The month of April was very busy for the public relations coordinator office. We started the month off by staffing troopers at the local Krispy Kreme doughnut shop as part of the national "Cops on Doughnut Shops" nationwide fund raiser for Special Olympics. Troopers in uniform, as well as several other DPS civilian personnel, volunteered their time throughout the weekend for this worthwhile cause. The event gave the Department a huge exposure to the community with the help of the media which reported the event. Congressman Jim Gibbons and the Mayor of Sparks, Geno Martini, also made an appearance and each praised the efforts of the volunteers. The total proceeds raised exceeded \$4000.00.

We also staffed several career and safety fairs throughout the month to include the large recruitment effort at Camp Pendleton, California. DPS employees were able to promote the department to several hundred possible candidates who visited the career day. We also administered the written and physical tests to several military personnel while in southern California. Members of the honor guard also volunteered their time on a Saturday morning to help with the ongoing construction of homes for Habitat for Humanity.

We are continuing to do the weekly radio show "Trooper Talk" as well as daily traffic reports on 2 local radio stations. Live traffic reports are also being done every Monday morning on

News Channel 8. Additionally, 4 driver's education classes were instructed during the month and the public relations coordinator attended a 3 day public information class which was sponsored by the Division of Emergency Management and FEMA. Toward the end of the month, uniformed and civilian DPS personnel volunteered 5 hours of their time at the "Tip-A-Cop" event which was held at the Claim Jumper restaurant in Reno. This event generated \$4,800.00 in northern Nevada, compared to \$2,200 in Las Vegas and \$4,600 in Henderson. As we approach the month of May, personnel are gearing up for the police memorial functions which are scheduled in Carson City, Reno and Sacramento. The honor guard will also be traveling to Washington DC to represent Nevada during national police week in Washington DC.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Cinco de Mayo will be celebrated May 2<sup>nd</sup> through May 8<sup>th</sup>, with many local Casinos hosting special celebrations. NHP will target those violations associated with the DUI driver.

Law Enforcement memorial weeks: May 2<sup>nd</sup> through May 6<sup>th</sup>, NHP will be attending ceremonies at the State Capitol, CHP as well as the Reno Hoff Memorial to honor fallen officers. NHP will also be sending a contingency of Honor Guard members to Washington D.C. for National Police week.

Seat Belt Campaign: May 25<sup>th</sup> through June 3<sup>rd</sup>, NHP will be working an OTS funded Seat Belt Enforcement Campaign.

Memorial Day: The final event for May will be Memorial Day weekend that will mark the end of the winter ski season and the start of the Summer season in the Reno/Sparks and Lake Tahoe area.

## **PROJECTS:**

**TROOPER TALK:** The radio station carrying the "Trooper Talk" radio show decided to stop hosting, however they offered the same weekly time slot to us to host our own Radio show. Trooper Scott Simon has taken over the "Trooper Talk" radio show and acts as the sole host of the program.

**MOBILE COMMAND CENTER:** The Mobile Command Center was rolled out again for display at the Reno Parole & Probation office as well as displayed for the Washoe District Attorney's Office and the Reno District Court offices. The MCC was also put to use as a portable training facility for an EVOC training session at the Stead airport and is scheduled for another EVOC training session in May.

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